

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 9-12, 14, 15, 18 and 20-22 are pending. By this Amendment, claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 12, 14, 15 and 18 are amended and claims 5, 6, 16, and 17 are canceled.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative by Examiner Cheng at the interview held May 26, 2009, are appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below, which constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 12 and 14-18 are objected to for informalities and claims 5, 6, 16 and 17 are objected to under 37 C.F.R. §1.75 (c) for being of improper dependent form.

As discussed during the interview, the amendments to claims 1, 3, 4, 7, 12, 14, 15 and 18, are in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions, and the cancellation of claims 5, 6, 16, and 17, overcome the objection to claims 1, 3-7, 12 and 14-18 for informalities. As also discussed, the cancellation of claims 5, 6, 16, and 17 renders moot the objection under 37 C.F.R. §1.75(c). It is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C §101 for allegedly not being tied to a statutory category.

As discussed during the interview, amendments to claim 12 overcome the rejections of claims 12, 14-18 and 20-22 under 35 U.S.C. §101 because the claim (i.e., a method for luminance dynamic range mapping) is tied to a statutory class (a processor). Support for a processor is found, for example, by modules 30-50 and paragraph [0001], which incorporates by reference U.S. Patent No. 6,646,762. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph. The Office Action, on pages 8 and 9, asserts that, "spatially

adapting the luminous compression function according to local image characteristics in such a manner as to preserve both shadow detail and overall image contrast," in paragraph [0023] of Applicant's specification, was not properly described. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

As discussed during the May 26 personal interview, and as shown in paragraphs [0022] and [0023] of the Applicant's specification, Eq. (3) shows the output of the blending function, which preserves both shadow detail and overall image contrast as recited in independent claims 1 and 12. Applicant's representative also discussed during the interview that Figs. 1 and 2 both show compression functions L_{comp1} and L_{comp2} . Therefore, the specification fully supports independent claims 1 and 12.

During the personal interview, in view of page 9 of the Office Action, Applicant also noted that independent claims 1 and 12 do not recite breakpoints B_1 and B_2 , and therefore there is not a requirement to show how the compression functions differ in relation to the breakpoints B_1 and B_2 . Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejection be withdrawn.

In the Office Action, claims 1, 3-7, 9-12, 14-18 and 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite. In response, claims 1 and 12 are amended to overcome the rejection as discussed during the personal interview. The pending claims are concise and definite. Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of the claims are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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